



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 February 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Gannett News Service, a preliminary investigation indicates that pressurized tubing that broke during a shut down procedure is the cause of a natural gas well accident that killed a worker on Wednesday in DeSoto, Louisiana. (See item [1](#))
- The Associated Press reports that Boeing Co. alerted airlines Thursday that Rolls Royce Trent engines in more than 200 777s could experience icing problems. The notice suggests in-flight precautions to avoid ice buildups in fuel lines that can cut power in unusually cold weather. (See item [14](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 5, Gannett News Service* – (Louisiana) **Broken pressurized tubing hit man who died at well site.** A preliminary investigation by DeSoto, Louisiana sheriff's investigators indicates that pressurized tubing that broke during a shut down procedure is the cause of the fatal natural gas well accident that claimed the life Wednesday night of a Bossier Parish man. A sergeant with the DeSoto sheriff just completed 15 interviews of subcontractors who were working at the well site in Stonewall and has determined that the man died of an injury sustained in the work-related accident. Crew members were performing a shut down procedure around 5 p.m. and had already shut the well head off. They were doing work to the separator unit that was hooked to the

well head “and it had a large amount of pressure on it,” said a lieutenant. The man was employed by L&C Testing, Inc. of Shreveport, which is a subcontractor for Chesapeake Energy, which owns the well site. Work began on the Burford 31-H well on October 14. “We were nearing completion of work that would have allowed the well to go on line as a producing well,” said Chesapeake’s director of corporate development in Louisiana. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration also will do its own investigation. The well site, which is located past a residential area, poses no threat to public safety or the environment, he said.

Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20090205/NEWS01/90205017>

2. *February 4, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **State alleges gas drilling violations by Noble Energy near Project Rulison.** A Denver energy company has until next week to respond formally to state allegations that it may not have conducted required surveying work to determine how close it drilled to the Project Rulison underground nuclear blast site. Noble Energy said in a brief statement Wednesday it has conducted the surveys for the four wells in question. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has issued four notices of alleged violation against Noble Energy. The wells were drilled directionally from about a mile away from the Project Rulison site, to underground locations about three-quarters of a mile away, the company says. State regulators say Noble failed to comply with a requirement to perform high-accuracy, gyroscopic well-bore surveys after drilling. They also say Noble did not obtain approval for completing the wells, including perforating the well casings in gas-bearing formations, and did not submit a directional drilling survey report showing each well’s distance from a half-mile-radius circle surrounding Project Rulison. The state requires a hearing be held for any well-permit applications within that radius, where no wells have been drilled and where the U.S. Department of Energy opposes any drilling.

Source:

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2009/02/04/020509_3A_Rulison_drilling.html

3. *February 3, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **14 cited for trespassing during coal mine protest.** Fourteen protesters who claim a Massey Energy Co. surface mine in West Virginia could cause flooding and harm a nearby town were ticketed for trespassing Tuesday, state police said. Five of the protesters chained themselves to heavy equipment at Massey’s Beetree Surface Mine on Coal River Mountain, said a sergeant, who described the participants as peaceful. Eight more were cited when they insisted on seeing a company representative after delivering a letter addressed to the Massey chief and subsidiary Marfork Coal Co., he said. A photographer who allegedly trespassed to shoot pictures of the protest also was cited. Five protesters were identified as members of Climate Ground Zero and pan-Appalachian Mountain Justice, according to news release issued by the groups. The letter signed by 14 West Virginians asks Massey and Marfork to cease operations at Beetree and an adjacent coal sludge impoundment. Blasting near the impoundment could cause flooding that could harm a nearby senior center, a Head Start program, and the town of Whitesville, the letter says. The letter also repeats the call for a wind farm in place of the surface mine, an idea being pushed by opponents of mountaintop removal mining.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/02/03/ap6002936.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *February 4, KXII 12 Sherman* – (Texas) **Chemical spill slows down traffic on Highway 82 in Cooke Co.** A chemical spill on U.S. highway 82 tied up traffic on February 4 through Cooke County after a tanker carrying hazardous material leaked onto the highway. The spill happened between Gainesville and Lindsay before 10 a.m. A semi truck hauling hydrochloric acid started leaking as it headed westbound. While the hydrochloric acid is not combustible, authorities say it can cause injury if the acid comes into contact with skin. “As we understand it, it was from a semi truck, and it left their yard and failed to secure one of the bulk head openings, and as the driver would put on his breaks and take off, speed up or whatever, it would slosh off of the bulk head,” the assistant chief of the Gainesville Fire Department said. Gainesville police say everything is now contained now, but the right lane is closed on February 4 in parts of Gainesville on Highway 82.

Source: <http://www.kxii.com/news/headlines/39111062.html>

5. *February 3, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Washington) **Jack Frost Fruit Company agrees to spend over \$100,000 to settle EPA Risk Management Program violations.** The Jack Frost Fruit Company of Yakima, Washington has agreed to pay \$20,554 for alleged violation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Risk Management Program requirements. EPA found the company lacked a prevention program to protect the public and the environment from an off-site release of anhydrous ammonia. As part of the settlement, Jack Frost has corrected all alleged violations, and agreed to spend at least \$85,000 to implement two supplemental environmental projects within the next twelve months. The projects involve taking steps at its facility to reduce the risk of release of anhydrous ammonia from its pipes and providing communications and rescue equipment to local area fire departments to improve the departments’ capabilities in responding to hazardous material emergencies in a safe and effective environment. The company uses more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia for refrigeration at its cold storage warehouse in Yakima, Washington. Under the law, any facility that uses, stores, manufactures, or handles more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia is required to prepare and submit a risk management plan to EPA.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/c11492cf5d594dbb85257552005c85cf?OpenDocument>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *February 5, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **Exelon NJ Oyster Creek reactor restarts after fire.** Exelon Corp’s 619-megawatt Oyster Creek nuclear power station in New Jersey started to exit an outage due to a transformer fire and ramped up to 3 percent power

early on February 4, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. A spokesman for the plant said operators planned to run the plant with only one main transformer.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0427597720090204>

7. *February 4, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **NRC cites contaminated soil at Vt. Yankee, also reverses stand on decommissioning fund.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday reversed an earlier stand and said it gave Entergy Nuclear approval to tap into Vermont Yankee's shrinking decommissioning savings account to the tune of \$219 million to pay for the storage of high-level radioactive waste outside the plant. In a report issued Tuesday afternoon, federal regulators also noted that preliminary investigation by Entergy Nuclear showed that there was radioactive contamination at the plant and that at least 135,000 cubic feet of soil would have to be removed, at a cost of \$9.1 million, once the reactor shut down. Under the plan, Entergy says that a total of \$875 million, in 2007 dollars, would be needed to demolish and clean up the plant. The report said that \$40 million alone would be needed to restore the Vernon site.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20090204/NEWS02/902040320/1002/NEWS01>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 5, Newark Advocate* – (Ohio) **Suspicious package removed from Boeing.** A suspicious package has been removed from Boeing in Heath, Ohio and is being examined off-site to determine what exactly it is, a spokesman for the aerospace manufacturer said Thursday afternoon. Haz-Mat crews were called to the building Thursday morning after security guards discovered the package, which was described as "some type of material inside a jar contained inside a Ziploc baggie" by the deputy director of the Licking County Emergency Management Agency. A spokesman for Boeing said that the package has been removed and that all safety and emergency procedures were followed. There was no evacuation, and an Advocate reporter at the scene noted that Boeing never prevented employees from entering the structure on the port authority grounds, which is also known as the former Newark Air Force Base. The executive director of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority said Boeing officials have not notified his staff of any safety issue involving the larger complex in Heath. If the problem warranted, Boeing is required to make that notification, he said. Fire trucks from Heath, Granville, Hebron, Monroe Township, Newton Township, and possibly other departments were dispatched. The first call was made at 7:47 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20090205/UPDATES01/90205008/1052/COMMUNITIES02>

9. *February 4, Navy Times* – (National) **Military: Improved body armor is too heavy.**

Concerned that U.S. troops are already saddled with too much heavy gear, military officials will not require them to wear improved body armor until manufacturers cut the weight of the new protective plates. The Army plans to buy 120,000 sets of the advanced bullet-blocking plates this year. This initial purchase of the plates, known as “XSAPI,” will be stocked in Kuwait and be available if commanders need them, service officials said at a congressional hearing Wednesday. The quality of small numbers of the current plates, called “ESAPI,” was questioned last week in an audit by the Defense Department inspector general’s office. The audit said the ESAPI plates from one body armor manufacturer — Armor Works of Chandler, Arizona — were tested improperly and may not provide troops adequate protection. Making the roughly 6-pound XSAPI any lighter is harder than it sounds. The plate has to be thick enough to defeat new and more potent bullets finding their way onto the battlefield, says an analyst of Ceradyne in Costa Mesa, California, one of the companies making XSAPI. ESAPI plates range in size from extra small to extra large and weigh on average 5 1/2 pounds each. XSAPI plates come in the same sizes and weigh about half a pound more. “Over time, the [extra weight], it does wear on your body,” said an Army staff sergeant, who has done two combat tours in Iraq. “I couldn’t imagine doing what I did, carrying what I carried, in Afghanistan.”

Source: http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/02/ap_body_armor_020409w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *February 5, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. law firm files Madoff class action in New York.** A U.S. law firm has filed a class action in New York on behalf of investors in Optimal, an investment fund of Spain’s Santander affected by the alleged \$50 billion fraud by a U.S. financier. Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP, which recovered \$7 billion for Enron victims, filed the lawsuit in the Southern District of New York alleging wrongful conduct in connection with the Ponzi scheme run by the financier, court documents showed on February 5. Optimal Strategic U.S. Equity is an investment fund of the eurozone’s largest bank Santander, which in December 2008 announced client exposure of 2.33 billion Euros (\$3 billion) to the financier. Unlike other cases related to this financier, the suit does not contain a securities claim, meaning plaintiffs can receive relevant information about the case before any trial which could bring to light previously unknown details on the case.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/marketsNewsUS/idUKL517497820090205>

11. *February 4, Tuscan Citizen* – (Arizona) **New phishing scam seeks cell users’ credit union data.** A phishing cell phone scam, where people are getting text messages telling them there is a problem with their credit union account, has hit Tucson. The text messenger asks for personal information to be e-mailed or called in. The scammer says there are problems with accounts at “Pyramid Credit Union,” which is different from the legitimate Pyramid Credit Union in Tucson, said the acting president of the Tucson Better Business Bureau. Another phony text message says it is from the legitimate Vantage West Credit Union. The telephone number has been traced to Michigan and the e-mail address has been traced to Germany, she said. The scammers are texting

numerous people in the hope of getting some who are Vantage or Pyramid customers, she said.

Source: <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/ss/fromtopemails/109442.php>

12. *February 4, Associated Press* – (California) **Ex-Predators co-owner pleads guilty in fraud case.** A Silicon Valley financier who federal authorities say bilked investors and scammed banks to furnish a lifestyle that included buying a stake in a professional hockey team pleaded guilty on February 4 to securities fraud. The former Nashville Predators co-owner entered the plea exactly two months after federal prosecutors brought a single criminal charge against him for allegedly using brokerage accounts that were not his as collateral for nearly \$100 million in loans. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, but the guilty party likely will be sentenced to much less time behind bars. The February 4 hearing capped a spectacularly rapid fall from grace for the guilty party who was member of a prominent San Jose banking family who founded Sand Hill Venture Capital and co-founded Heritage Bank of Commerce with his father.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/02/04/sports/s181920S25.DTL)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/02/04/sports/s181920S25.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/02/04/sports/s181920S25.DTL)

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Transportation Sector

13. *February 5, Reuters* – (New York) **Bird remains in both engines of US Airways jet.** Bird remains were found in both engines of a US Airways jetliner that lost power and ditched in New York's Hudson River last month, U.S. transportation investigators said on Wednesday. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said both engines of the Airbus A320 were damaged and contained "organic material" that was sent to bird experts at the Smithsonian Institution for identification. The board previously had said bird remains were found in the right engine, and now has confirmed the same in the left engine. The pilot of Flight 1549 radioed to air traffic controllers that the plane had struck a flock of birds, knocking out both engines, shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia airport on January 15. A mechanical problem reported in the right engine two days before the incident had been properly fixed and was not a factor, the safety board said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE5137F020090205?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

14. *February 4, Associated Press* – (International) **Boeing warns of ice problem in some 777 engines.** The Boeing Co. has alerted airlines that Rolls Royce Trent engines in more than 200 777s could experience icing problems. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports that the notice was sent Thursday. The notice suggests in-flight precautions to avoid ice buildups in fuel lines that can cut power in unusually cold weather. The notice covers about 30 percent of the more than 700 777s in use. Two episodes were cited. In January 2008, seven passengers were injured when a British Airways 777 made a hard landing at Heathrow Airport outside London. Both engines failed to respond to a command for thrust. In November, a Delta Airlines 777 on a flight from Shanghai to Atlanta lost

power in one engine. Power was regained after the pilot descended.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idSzHpEI4NbaWWwhIawtIFUV1tggD964U53O0>

15. *February 4, Associated Press* – (California) **2 hurt during failed takeoff from Calif. airport.** Authorities say a transport plane on a training flight veered off the runway and crashed during takeoff at a California desert airport, injuring its two pilots. The twin-engine C-47 Turbo Dakota aircraft crashed onto its nose in a failed takeoff Wednesday morning from the Mojave Air and Space Port north of Los Angeles. The plane is a former military version of the Douglas DC-3. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said the 62-year-old plane lifted off but dropped back to the ground and tipped over. National Test Pilots School owns the plane. The school says both people onboard have been released from a hospital after being treated for minor injuries. The plane was severely damaged.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090205/ap_on_re_us/takeoff_crash_2

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *February 4, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **White powdery substance mailed to assessor a hoax.** Boise Police have turned their investigation over to the FBI after a white powdery substance was found inside an envelope mailed to the Ada County Assessors Office in downtown Boise. The Boise Fire Department's Hazardous Materials team determined that the substance was not dangerous. Preliminary tests show it to be some type of corn starch. The office, next door to the Ada County Courthouse, was cleared while the substance was removed and tested. No one has shown any signs of illness. Since the substance was apparently meant to be a threatening hoax sent through the U.S. mail, federal authorities have jurisdiction over the investigation.

Source: http://www.ktvb.com/news/nearyou/boise/ktvbn-feb0409-suspicious_envelope.1c3bb9ff.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *February 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Frozen chicken recall linked to peanut product recall.** The Hain Celestial Group Inc, Boulder, Colo., is recalling approximately 983,700 pounds of frozen chicken entrees because they contain peanut products being recalled by the Peanut Corporation of America, which is the focus of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigation, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced on February 4. According to MeatPoultry.com, the problem was discovered as part of the investigation into the widespread recall of peanut products produced since 2007 by the Peanut Corporation of America's Blakely, Georgia facility because they may be linked to a nationwide outbreak of salmonellosis. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these frozen chicken

products.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=284&yr=2009>

18. *February 4, New York Times* – (International) **Chile takes steps to rehabilitate its lucrative salmon industry.** When a devastating virus swept through Chile's farmed salmon stocks last year, some of the industry's biggest players laid off thousands of workers, packed up operations and moved to unspoiled waters farther south along the Chilean coast. But the virus went with them. Last month, the Chilean government began hashing out tougher measures to improve the sanitary and environmental conditions of the troubled industry. But producers expect still deeper losses this year, as the virus continues to kill millions of fish slated for export to the United States and other countries. Government and industry officials say they have already taken important steps to improve the ways salmon are farmed. Last year Sernapesca, Chile's national fishing service, tripled its inspections of farmed fish, said the agency's director. But Chile has continued to raise salmon for export with chemicals and medications not approved for use in the United States and Europe, according to documents from regulators. The virus afflicting the fish, infectious salmon anemia, or ISA, is not harmful to humans, they note.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/05/world/americas/05salmon.html?ref=world>

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Water Sector

19. *February 4, Water Technology Online* – (Pennsylvania) **PA studies wastewater from 'fracking.'** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is studying wastewater produced by gas drilling to determine whether it is hazardous to human health, according to a report in the February 2009 Bay Journal. According to a DEP spokesman, the department expected to have a chemical analysis complete by the end of January, the article said. He said in the report that regardless of the results, the gas industry must develop a way to treat the wastewater coming out of wells being drilled into the thick, black rock of the Marcellus Shale formation. The formation, which extends into southern New York, has the potential to become the nation's largest natural gas field. Industry officials said in the report that up to 4 million gallons of water might be used in a single gas well, and 20 percent to 40 percent of the water comes back up after it is blasted into the shale. The DEP has issued more than 500 permits to drill in the Marcellus Shale, and drilling activity has taken place at more than 300 sites, the DEP spokesman is quoted as saying. According to the report, two companies are considering on-site recycling systems. Some of the wastewater is taken to approved municipal sewer authorities, and some is taken to one of the state's six industrial water treatment facilities. State officials have said more treatment capacity is needed and have encouraged more companies to use on-site recycling methods.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71358

20. *February 4, Water Technology Online* – (Tennessee) **Tests find high metals levels in water near TN spill.** Water quality testing by environmental groups indicates unsafe levels of heavy metals linger in surface waters near the collapse of a coal ash retention

pond near here as well as downriver from the site, according to a February 3 WVLT-TV report. On December 22, a massive ash slide occurred here when a retention pond burst, spilling 1 billion gallons of sludge from a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) coal-fired power plant into nearby surface water and the environment. Environmental groups United Mountain Defense and the Environmental Integrity Project reported that their scientists tested 22 water locations over the course of a week. An employee with the Environmental Integrity Project was quoted in the report as saying, "The results indicate the collapse of the ash embankment on December 22 has contaminated surface water near the collapse site and downriver with levels of heavy metals that frequently exceed federal drinking water standards and water quality standards." He added that their results show the entire watershed is affected directly by the spill. TVA and state testing shows safe drinking water levels since the spill. TVA officials declined comment, WVLT-TV reported.

Source: http://watertechnonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71360

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *February 5, Reuters* – (International) **Experts identify key area of bird flu virus.** Two teams of researchers say they have identified a key area of the H5N1 bird flu virus which appears to be involved in its replication and hope the discovery could speed up the design of new drugs. In separate articles published in the journal Nature, the teams from France and China said the region of the virus could be an important target for the development of new drugs. A member of the Chinese team said they had examined three proteins in the area and found they were involved in binding the virus to human cells and in virus replication. "It (the area) has multi-functions...and can be used as a target for new drugs," the researcher with the Institute of Biophysics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences told Reuters.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUST115796>

22. *February 5, San Francisco Business Times* – (National) **IBM, Google partner on online health records.** Google Inc. and IBM Corp. have teamed up to help get personal health data online. The companies Thursday said people who use Google Health can now automatically stream data from medical devices into their personal health records. The new feature uses software that IBM developed based on guidelines from Continua Health Alliance, an organization that supports interoperable health care technology products. It is also based in part on open-source software available now from Eclipse and Open Health Tools, two open-source communities dedicated to supporting advancements in health care. The new features of Google Health let patients exchange their personal health data with doctors or other authorized parties.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2009/02/02/daily73.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *February 5, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. diplomat killed in Ethiopian capital.** A U.S. diplomat was killed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Saturday but the circumstances of his death are unclear, State Department officials said on Thursday. The 25-year-old diplomat was found dead in his home in Addis Ababa, officials said. “The death is under investigation and we are coordinating closely with the government of Ethiopia,” said a State Department official. Another official said it was a suspected homicide and that U.S. diplomatic security was looking into the incident. The diplomat was a foreign service officer who worked in the consular section of the embassy.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE5144FN20090205>
24. *February 4, Springfield News-Leader* – (Missouri) **Virus hits city computer system.** Springfield officials are trying to eliminate a computer virus that has affected most of the city’s 1,600 computers — including five mobile computers in police cars. The director of information systems for the city said the emergency 911 system, police, fire, and traffic services and building permits are not affected at this time. However, because the virus appears to be using the Internet to spread itself, Web access has been shut off for most city computers. Outside users should be able to access the city’s Web site, but intermittent outages have occurred. The Health Department director said the virus has occasionally disrupted the department’s ability to provide birth and death certificates and WIC vouchers. The director of information systems for the city said the problem was first noticed on January 30, but escalated in recent days. The city’s anti-virus protection provider, McAfee Inc., identified the virus as “Virus,” which has been in existence for about three years. How the virus entered the city’s computer system is not clear. But he said it may have arrived in a pop-up message warning that the computer was infected with a virus and to “click here” to fix the problem.
Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20090204/BREAKING01/90204032>
25. *February 4, WSMV 4 TV Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Alleged threat locks down 4 schools.** Four schools in northeast Cheatham County were locked down for a few hours on February 4 after police said a serious threat was made to people who attend one or more of the schools. Authorities said they were concerned about the safety of the students after they could not locate a former student from Sycamore High School who is accused of making the threats. The schools that were locked down were Pleasant View Elementary, Sycamore Elementary, Sycamore High School and East Cheatham Elementary. Hundreds of students were affected by the lockdown. Students were allowed to leave the schools with their parents. A half-day was previously scheduled for teacher in-service, and dismissal had been planned for 12:45 p.m. It was unclear what kind of threat the former student was accused of making. The Cheatham County School Board said that was the only information they were releasing at this time.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29016006/>
26. *February 3, Associated Press* – (National) **House approves national center for campus safety.** On February 3 the House approved the creation of an office in the Justice Department to help university security forces train for and prevent violent

incidents such as those that hit Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University in recent years. The National Center for Campus Public Safety would issue grants to campus safety agencies, encourage research into improved college safety and conduct training. The center would be run through the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, said a representative from Virginia, who co-sponsored the bill with a congressman from Texas.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/02/03/national/w124803S73.DTL&type=politics>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *February 4, Danbury New-Times* – (Connecticut) **White powder scare closes police station lobby.** What police are calling a textbook example of what not to do with a suspicious package forced the closure of the police station lobby for nearly three hours Wednesday afternoon in Danbury. The incident happened shortly before 6 p.m., when a Danbury woman came to the Main Street station with an envelope that she suspected had something dangerous in it. The woman said she received it in the mail earlier in the day. The envelope holding the substance appeared to be a credit card statement from Sears, she said. Police called firefighters, who responded with a Hazmat unit. A cruiser was stationed by the front entrance to keep people from entering. Eventually, firefighters determined that the white substance was cellulose, and posed no danger to anyone.

Source: http://www.newstimes.com/ci_11630251?source=most_viewed

28. *February 4, KTRV 12 Boise* – (Idaho) **Emergency management center keeping tabs on Olympic events.** Thousands of athletes, coaches and fans are in Idaho for the 2009 World Winter Games, and with all the attention, comes the potential for emergencies. Ada County's newly remodeled emergency operations center is keeping tabs on all the different athletic venues and events around the Treasure Valley. The center now has 24 Internet-compatible monitors around the room instead of two old projectors. The winter games provided a good deadline for completing the upgrade, and its director says it is now ready for any emergency, including severe winter storms and earthquakes.

Source: <http://www.fox12news.com/Global/story.asp?S=9791543>

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Information Technology

29. *February 5, VNUNet.com* – (North Dakota) **'Parking ticket' scam brings malware infection.** An enterprising group of criminals has been using a real-world scam in an effort to spread malware. The attacks reportedly began with a series of phony parking tickets issued in Grand Rapids, North Dakota. Individuals had the tickets placed under their windshields along with instructions to visit a Web site. A Sans Institute security researcher said that the Web site contained a number of photos of vehicles from Grand Rapids, and advertised a searchable archive of "bad parking". The photos had been edited to remove license plate information. Users visiting the site were instructed to

download an executable 'toolbar' in order to search for their own cars. The executable contains a Trojan application, however, which attempts to download a number of other malicious applications onto the victim's PC. "Attackers continue to come up with creative ways of tricking potential victims into installing malicious software," the researcher said. "Merging physical and virtual worlds via objects that point to websites is one way to do this. I imagine we will be seeing such approaches more often." The method of attack impressed a number of other security researchers. Social engineering as a means of infection is not a new tactic for criminals, but using a real-world method such as a fake parking ticket is certainly new. "This is a great example of real-world social engineering, placing fliers on cars informing you of a parking violation as a way to drive users to the web to download and install malware," said the director of security research and communications at McAfee.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2235808/parking-ticket-scam-brings>

30. *February 4, DarkReading* – (International) **Unauthorized Web use on the rise, sneaking by IT.** Schools long have struggled with savvy students who run anonymous Web proxy tools to bypass Web filters and secretly access banned Web sites and content. But the use of these potentially dangerous tools within the enterprise appears to be more widespread than was once thought. A new study released on January 4 indicates that businesses may be clueless about the breadth of the problem: While 15 percent of IT managers report that Web filter bypass tools are in use in their organizations, it turns out that these tools are actually in use in three out of four organizations, according to FaceTime Communications, which polled both IT managers and its own customers on the topic. Anonymous Web proxies, also known as proxy servers, anonymizers, and shadow-surfing tools, basically pass user Web traffic via other servers to get around an organization's Web filters. These tools come in various forms, but the most popular are Web proxy sites, such as Proxyatwork.com, which let users reach banned sites from work, whether it is gambling, social networks, or adult content. They also come in desktop applications, such as Circumventor, that let users browse silently and anonymously over nontraditional browsing ports, hiding their IP addresses and other identifiable information. Other bypass tools include online communities, such as TOR and Hopster, where users make their PCs available for use as proxies in support of freedom of communication over the Net, notes the vice president of marketing and product management for FaceTime.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/management/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=213001747&subSection=Security+administration/management>

31. *February 3, DarkReading* – (International) **Twitter clickjacking hack released.** A Web developer has released a proof-of-concept clickjacking attack targeting Twitter that demonstrates how an attacker could take over a member's "update" function on the microblogging site. Simply put, all it takes is for the victim to click on a seemingly innocent link on a Web page while logged into Twitter, and then his or her "What are you doing?" status is under the attacker's control. "It means anyone can update an individual's Twitter status without you knowing," says the independent Web developer who wrote the PoC and published it on his Website. Clickjacking is an attack where a

bad guy slips a malicious link invisibly onto a Web page or under a commonly used button on a Web site. When the user clicks on the link or rolls his mouse over the link, he becomes infected. Microsoft has included a new clickjacking protection feature in Internet Explorer 8 that lets Websites safeguard their sites and visitors without browser add-ons.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=DFI GW5M525YK0QSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=213000919>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *February 4, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **2 teens arrested in Germantown chemical release.** Germantown police arrested two teenage boys from Menomonee Falls following the release of a chemical in a Wal-Mart two weeks ago that sickened 47 people. Police said that the chemical was a substance like pepper spray and the 17-year-old boys were arrested February 3. The village police chief says the boys could face charges of recklessly endangering safety and disorderly conduct when a district attorney reviews the case. He says the January 15 incident affected both employees and customers, but that there should be no long-term health effects to anyone exposed.

Source:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20090204/WDH0101/90204057/1981>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *February 4, Northwest Arkansas Morning News* – (Arkansas) **Tree damage closes some park, national forest areas.** Residents wanting to take advantage of warm weather this weekend to go hiking or camping will find some closings at area state parks and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Officials continue this week to assess damage from one of the worst ice storms to hit Arkansas in many years, according to news releases. Sightseeing is discouraged until progress is made clearing fallen trees and

limbs. It is estimated that more than 600,000 acres in the Ozark-St. Francis forests have been affected, a release stated. Some areas have no damage, while other areas were hard hit, with pines and hardwoods bent over, split and broken, especially in upper elevations. Forest officials have made substantial progress opening roads and facilities, the release stated. "Safety remains a concern when traveling through the forest. When in the forest, be mindful of overhanging limbs or unstable trees that may continue to come down," said the public affairs team leader in a news release.

Source: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2009/02/04/news/020509azparks.txt>

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Dams Sector

34. *February 5, All Headline News* – (Maryland) **Repairs needed to aging Savage River Dam to provide flood control, protect D.C. area water supplies.** An aging dam on the Savage River in Maryland is a disaster waiting to happen unless cash-strapped local governments get enough money for repairs from the Federal Government. Officials from various state and local government entities are seeking \$6 million in federal economic stimulus funds to pay for necessary repairs to the dam. One of the four main drainage gates on the dam, which has been in service since 1952, has been frozen closed since last winter. It appears to be a problem of age, so the 350 acre reservoir needs to be drained so all the gates can be replaced. The alternative is to risk having the dam burst and the Savage River run freely, as it once did. But that not only eliminates flood control, not only along the river's route, but also on the upper Potomac, as well as threatening adequate water supplies for millions. Along with ensuring Potomac River water supplies for suburban Washington, the Savage River Dam provides water for the town of Westernport.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7013964561>

35. *February 4, Associated Press* – (International) **Scientist says dam may have triggered China quake.** Pressure from a dam, its reservoir's heavy waters weighing on geologic fault lines, may have helped trigger China's devastating earthquake in May 2008, some scientists say, in a finding that suggests human activity played a role in the disaster. The magnitude-7.9 quake in Sichuan province was China's worst in a generation, causing 70,000 deaths and leaving 5 million homeless. Just 550 yards from the fault line and 3.5 miles from the epicenter stands the 511-foot-high Zipingpu dam, the area's largest. The quake cracked Zipingpu, forcing the reservoir to be drained. A chief engineer at the Sichuan Geology and Mineral Bureau said on February 4 that the immense weight of Zipingpu's waters — 315 million tons — likely affected the timing and magnitude of the quake. Though earthquakes are not rare in the area, one of such magnitude had not occurred for thousands of years, he said. "I'm not saying the earthquake would not have happened without the dam, but the presence of the massive Zipingpu dam may have changed the size or time of the quake, thus creating a more violent quake," he said in a telephone interview. Seismologists recognize that large bodies of water may exert pressure on fault lines deep in the earth, leading to earthquakes. The pressure can push the sides of fault lines harder together, increasing friction, or cause the fault lines to slip apart.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jOArcXgvEbKDDuA6azMigi2pMPTwD964T3F80>

36. *February 4, Oak Ridger* – (Tennessee) **TVA installs warning system at Melton Hill Dam.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has installed a new safety warning system at Melton Hill Dam to help improve public safety during water releases from the dam. The warning system, scheduled to recently begin operating, includes signs, warning horns, and strobe lights that warn the public of water discharges through the dam and of rapidly rising water downstream from the dam. “The horns and strobe lights will automatically be activated prior to water level changes as a safety warning to the public,” said the TVA senior vice president of river operations. “When the horns and strobe lights are activated, boaters and the public should quickly move to safe areas.” Before the TVA begins generating power and releasing water from the dam, warning horns and strobe lights mounted near the downstream discharge area will be activated. Source: <http://www.oakridger.com/news/x1851003583/TVA-installs-warning-system-at-Melton-Hill-Dam>

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